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March 15, 2001

U. S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

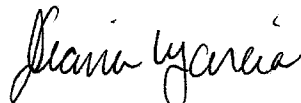
To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is to urge the FDA to grant petition 98P-0151/CP1 to prohibit the slaughter of downed animals.

In addition to the human health dangers:

- 1) Animals too sick or injured even to stand should not be allowed to enter the human food chain.
- 2) Downed animals are typically pushed with tractors or dragged with chains – inhumane processes which cause injuries ranging from bruises and abrasions to broken bones and torn ligaments.
- 3) Downed animals comprise a very small percentage of animals slaughtered, and prohibiting their marketing will cause no undue economic hardship.
- 4) Industry experts have estimated that 90% of downed animals can be prevented with better care and handling. Removing the market for downed animals will provide an incentive to industry to prevent downed animals in the first place.

Sincerely,



Diana Garcia

98P-0151

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